

MEMORANDUM

TO: The Nevada County Transportation Commission

FROM: Daniel B. Landon, Executive Director

SUBJECT: Executive Director's Report for the September 21, 2005 Meeting

DATE: September 14, 2005

1. GRASS VALLEY CORRIDOR IMPROVEMENT PROJECT (GVCIP)

At their August 23rd meeting, the Grass Valley City Council acted on a staff recommendation and authorized city staff to assume project management duties, and assigned two Council members, Lisa Swarthout and Patti Ingram, to work as an ad hoc committee on the GVCIP. NCTC staff will meet with City and Caltrans staff on September 15th to review the Administrative Draft Project Study Report that was prepared by Bickett Engineering, Inc. and to develop plans to move the project forward. NCTC staff will continue to assist the City with the project on an as-needed basis.

2. REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION PLAN (RTP) UPDATE STATUS

The completion of the Draft RTP has been delayed due to the California Transportation Commission's (CTC) decision to postpone adoption of the 2006 State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) Fund Estimate until the financial implications of the recently signed Federal Transportation Reauthorization Bill could be assessed. The CTC is scheduled to consider adoption of the 2006 STIP Fund Estimate at their September 29th meeting. With the adopted Fund Estimate, NCTC staff will be able to complete the *Financial Element* of the RTP.

Once the Draft RTP and Draft Supplemental Program Environmental Impact Report (PEIR) are completed, they will be available for public review and comment in October. The Draft RTP/PEIR will then be presented to the Commission at the November meeting and a public hearing will be held to provide an additional opportunity for review and comment. The Final RTP and Supplemental PEIR will then be presented to the Commission in January 2006 for final adoption.

3. 2006 STATE TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM SCHEDULE

At their September meeting, the California Transportation Commission staff will be asking the Commission to approve the following schedule for the 2006 STIP adoption:

STIP fund estimate adoption: September 29, 2005.
RTIPs and ITIP due: January 30, 2006.
South STIP hearing (Los Angeles): March 9, 2006.
North STIP hearing (Sacramento): March 15 and 16, 2006.
Staff recommendations issued: April 7, 2006.
STIP adoption: April 27, 2006.

4. SELECTION OF NCTC'S GENERAL COUNSEL

After receiving notification from NCTC's attorney Steven Gross of an increase in his hourly rate, and recognizing the Commission may need a firm more specialized in the areas of air quality and transportation funding, staff mailed a Request for Proposal for General Counsel Services to eleven individuals/law firms on June 20, 2005. A total of six qualified proposals were received by the due date, July 22nd. A draft contract was then sent to the individual/law firms to see who would be agreeable to NCTC's terms. On August 23rd interviews were conducted with the four individuals/firms that responded to the draft contract. Those interviewed were Steven Gross of the Law Office of Porter Simon; Scott Brown of P.Scott Brown Attorney At Law; Nancy Miller of Miller, Owen & Trost; and David Prentice and Dennis Cota from Best, Best, & Krieger. The selection committee consisted of Daniel B. Landon, Patti Ingram, Art Bauer, and Stephen Wright. They were unanimous in their recommendation that NCTC enter into a professional services agreement with Miller, Owen & Trost for General Counsel Services.

The selection committee made this recommendation based on the firm's experience with transportation planning agencies within the region, their competence in dealing with transportation funding issues, and their understanding of a variety of subject areas, including: the Transportation Development Act, the Ralph M. Brown Act, transportation fee programs, personnel issues, and the development of the Regional Transportation Plan and accompanying Environmental Document.

The hourly billing rates range from \$225/hour for the principal attorney Nancy C. Miller, to \$80 for paralegals. The agreement is for one year, with an option to extend an additional four years, for a total five-year term, at the discretion of NCTC.

5. JOINT WORKSHOP: GRASS VALLEY CITY COUNCIL/NEVADA COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS/NEVADA COUNTY TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

On August 15th a joint workshop was held with the theme being: "Traffic In and Around Grass Valley". After introductory comments by Mayor Gerard Tassone, Board of Supervisors Chairman Ted Owens, and NCTC's Chairwoman Patti Ingram, transportation staff from Grass Valley City Engineering, Nevada County DOTS, and NCTC gave updates on their transportation planning efforts. Following those presentations, members on the panel heard public concerns and conducted discussions regarding the Dorsey Drive Interchange, Nevada City Highway/Brunswick intersection, Idaho-Maryland/East Main intersection, La Barr Meadows Road/SR 49 intersection, and other issues of concern.

Based on dialogue in the meeting, City, County, and NCTC staff identified the following points to be the focus of future discussions.

- a. Evaluate both short and long-term options for the Idaho-Maryland Road/Brunswick Road intersection for the purpose of improving safety, and meeting capacity needs within the Brunswick Road corridor.
- b. Evaluate the Main Street Corridor from Alta Street to the Nevada City Highway. Consider both its present and future use and evaluate standards for future improvements and the esthetics desired by the community.
- c. Evaluate local options for raising revenues to address future transportation needs.
- d. Review NCTC's traffic model assumptions with regard to future growth. Analyze infrastructure based on the funding projected in Task "c" and evaluate what level of infrastructure can be supported in terms of future traffic demand.

6. UPCOMING STAFF ACTIVITIES

On October 6th and 7th Dan Landon and Michael Woodman will attend the annual Rural Counties Task Force Conference in Monterey. Conference topics will include:

- Programming Regional Transportation Improvement Funds in Uncertain Times
- GIS and Rural Transportation
- Sales Tax Measures and Other Alternative Funding Mechanisms
- Report on Upcoming State Legislation

On October 17th and 18th Dan Landon will attend the Self-Help Counties Coalition "Focus On The Future" Conference in San Francisco. The Self-Help Counties Coalition is made up of the eighteen California counties with sales tax measures in place. Their annual conference is for the purpose of reporting successes and challenges of those sales tax measures and addressing issues with regard to planning and delivery of projects. Topics included in this year's conference are:

- Exploring the Impacts of the State's Proposed Two-Tier STIP and the Impending Fiscal Crisis on State Transit Operations
- Strategic Planning and Other Mechanisms for Delivering on the Promise of Your Agencies Expenditure Plan
- Formation of Successful Public/Private Partnerships in Delivering Transportation Improvements
- New Approaches for Project Development Teams to Enhance Project Management and Delivery
- Implementing Context Sensitive Solutions for Transportation Projects and Creating Design Flexibility Amid Agency Design Standards
- 2006 Sales Tax Measures, Projects and Programs That Are Expected To Be in Place in the Coming Year.

7. UPDATE ON INTERNET PROJECTS

The Executive Director has tasked PRISM Engineering with the development of two internet based projects. The first being an update of the NCTC's website and the second being development of a web-based traffic database for the Nevada County Transportation Commission and its member agencies. Staff will display progress on these two projects at the meeting.